

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of The) Application No. NG-0013
Commission, on its own motion,)
to evaluate and establish, on)
a quarterly basis, an assessment)
for jurisdictional utilities) PROGRESSION ORDER NO. 4
pursuant to the State Natural)
Gas Regulation Act [LB 790,)
2003].) Entered: July 7, 2004

BY THE COMMISSION:

The State Natural Gas Regulation Act (Act) requires that the Commission assess its expenditures for each quarter-year against all jurisdictional utilities, subject to certain adjustments. See Neb. Rev. Stat. section 66-1841. The Act provides that the Commission shall determine its expenditures for the given quarter within 15 days after such quarter. This order addresses the assessment for expenses during the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2003-2004, April through June 2004.

Actual fourth-quarter expenditures, including repayment of the \$100,000 in seed money appropriated to the Commission, totaled \$175,507.55. Projected expenses for the first quarter of the 2004-2005 state fiscal year total \$49,259.39. The total balance in the State Natural Gas Regulation Cash Fund as of June 30, 2004, was \$36,501.90.

O P I N I O N A N D F I N D I N G S

Based upon the foregoing, the Commission finds that an assessment of \$55,000.00 is necessary to pay all expenses, to provide a sufficient reserve and to maintain a cash flow until the next assessment evaluation and collection. Appendix A shows the allocation of this amount to the Jurisdictional Utilities, as required by Section 66-1841(4) of the Act. The allocated amounts are based upon number of meters served, as reported by the Jurisdictional Utilities on or about April 30, 2004, pursuant to Rule 006, of the Commission Natural Gas and Pipeline Rules and Regulations (Neb. Admin. Code Title 291, Chapter 9). The assessed amounts are as follows: for Aquila, \$31,505.60; for Kinder Morgan, \$16,633.10; and for NorthWestern Energy, \$6,861.30.

The Act permits a jurisdictional utility to recover the amount of any assessments or charges paid to the Commission pursuant to Section 66-1840 or 66-1841 as a special surcharge billed to ratepayers. The surcharge must be shown on customer billing statements as required by Section 66-1841(7)(a).

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the Jurisdictional Utilities pay the amounts set forth above within 15 days from the date that notice of assessment is mailed, as required by Neb. Rev. Stat. § 66-1841(4).

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 7th day of July, 2004.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Chairman

ATTEST:

Executive Director

Appendix A

	<u>Meters</u>		<u>Allocation</u>
Aquila	185,159.00	57.28%	\$31,505.60
Kinder Morgan	97,753.00	30.24%	\$16,633.10
NorthWestern	<u>40,324.00</u>	12.48%	<u>\$6,861.30</u>
Total	323,236.00	100.00%	\$55,000.00